

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 261350Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 085

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1104

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR CZ  
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO U.S. JAROMIR JOHANES

1. WE HAVE HAD SOME SMALL OPPORTUNITY FOR SOCIAL BUSINESS  
CONTACT WITH AMBASSADOR JOHANES AND FIND THE BACKGROUND PREPARED  
ON HIM BY BI ACCURATE AND WELL DONE. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH AS AN  
ADDENDUM, HERE ARE OUR IMPRESSIONS OF HIM.

2. JOHANES IS SMOOTH, SELF-CONFIDENT, HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, ARTICULATE,

AND POSSESSED OF A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR. HE FEELS A CERTAIN LACK  
OF DEPTH IN HIS KNOWLEDGE OF U.S. AFFAIRS, AND IT WILL TAKE HIM SOME  
TIME TO GET OVER THIS, PARTICULARLY SINCE HIS PREDECESSOR IS NOW  
HIS SUPERIOR IN THE MFA, SPACIL. HIS CLOSENESS TO FOREIGN  
MINISTER CHNOUPEK SEEMS TO GIVE HIM A FEELING OF SELF-CONFIDENCE,  
HOWEVER, AND WE SUSPECT HE WILL MOVE RATHER QUICKLY TO ESTABLISH  
HIS AUTHORITY IN U.S. - CSSR AFFAIRS.

3. RELATIONS BETWEEN HIM AND SPACIL APPEAR TO BE EXCELLENT, AND  
THEY ARE CLEARLY GOOD PERSONAL FRIENDS WITH A HEALTHY JOSHING  
RELATIONSHIP. (E.G. DURING SENDOFF LUNCH APRIL 21 JOHANES AND  
CHARGE MADE A GOOD MANY JOKES ABOUT HOW SPACIL DID NOT BELIEVE  
ANYONE ELSE COULD FILL HIS SHOES; WHEN SUBJECT OF SPACIL'S  
FORTHCOMING VISIT TO U.S. CAME UP, JOHANES EXPRESSED MOCK DREAD  
AT HAVING SPACIL COME AROUND TELLING EVERYBODY HOW WELL HE HAD  
DONE THINGS IN COMPARISON WITH WHAT JOHANES WAS DOING.) IN  
GENERAL, JOHANES HAS A TWINKLE IN HIS EYE AND IS ABLE TO JOKE IN

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A HEALTHY WAY ABOUT ANY SUBJECT, INCLUDING TOUCHY ONES LIKE  
USSR-CSSR RELATIONS.

4. AS REGARDS HIS FAMILY, MRS. JOHANES IS COMPARATIVELY YOUNG, AND CLEARLY DOES NOT LOOK FORWARD TO TACKLING ANOTHER WHOLE NEW COUNTRY SO SOON AFTER GOING TO CANADA FOR THE FIRST TIME. WHILE HER ENGLISH IS GOOD (AS IS HIS) AND SHE IS ATTRACTIVE WITH A PLEASANT PERSONALITY, SHE DOES SEEM TO FEEL THAT SHE IS BEING ASKED TO GO THROUGH AN ORDEAL, AND BOTH SHE AND JOHANES JOKE A GOOD DEAL ABOUT HER NOT BEING READY TO GO YET. JOHANES ALSO EXPRESSED WHAT SEEMED TO BE GENUINE CONCERN ABOUT THE SAFETY OF HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN IN VIEW OF RECENT INCIDENTS IN WASHINGTON (SEPTEL); IT IS CLEAR HE IS A BIT UPTIGHT ABOUT WASHINGTON AS A CITY TO LIVE IN. HE ALSO EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN (DURING APRIL 21 LUNCH) ABOUT WHAT KIND OF PROTOCOL TREATMENT HE WOULD GET, BUT SPACIL DID TELL HIM THAT ONE OF THE JOYS OF SERVING IN U.S. WAS THAT AMERICANS WERE NOT PROTOCOL-CONSCIOUS.

5. IN GENERAL, OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT JOHANES IS SOMEWHAT IN-EXPERIENCED, BUT EXTREMELY BRIGHT AND INTENT UPON DOING A GOOD JOB; AND HE IS PROBABLY CAPABLE OF DOING IT.

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